



Sierra National Forest  
1600 Tollhouse Road  
Clovis, CA 93611

## **ASPEN FIRE INFORMATION**

### **Update #13**

Release for Wednesday, July 31, 2013/Time: 7:00 AM

#### **Incident Statics**

Acres Burned:	14,332	Structures Threatened:	3
Containment:	35%	Structures Damaged:	0
Fire Start Date:	July 22, 2013	Injuries:	2
Fire Cause:	Lightning	Total Personnel:	1792
Cost to date:	\$10.6 million		

#### **Summary**

- The Fire is located within the Sierra National Forest in Fresno County and is approximately seven miles North of Big Creek. It is currently burning off Stump Springs Road, North of Aspen Springs. The South Central Sierra Interagency Incident Management Team is in command of the Aspen Fire.
- The inversion layer continues to cause smoke to accumulate in the low laying areas of the fire which hampers visibility of firefighters on the ground and in the air. As the smoke clears in the early afternoon, a more defined smoke column(s) may be seen from several miles away. As the evening progresses, the inversion returns causing the smoke to return into the lower levels.
- Recreation and businesses remain open in the Shaver Lake, Huntington Lake, Lake Thomas Edison, Florence Lake and the Mono Hot Springs areas.

#### **Fire Update**

- Firefighter and public safety remains the highest priority. Fire crews are being sensitive to environmental and cultural resources in and around the fire area.
- Last night, fire crews continued to make good progress with indirect attack operations, but access and fire behavior are still a major safety concern for fire crews.
- Due to the extremely steep, rugged and inaccessible terrain, fire crews are using a tactic called indirect attack which creates control lines away from the fires active edge. Air resources, including several helicopters and air tankers are being utilized along the fire-line to slow the forward progress of the fire and to cool down hot spots. As the situation changes and firefighters can safely gain access to the fire, a more direct attack will be implemented.

(More)

- Smoke from the Aspen Fire continues to impact air quality in local communities. Individuals sensitive to smoke are advised to remain indoors and keep windows closed to minimize exposure to smoke. For more information regarding smoke visit: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

## **Road and Trail Closures**

Roads:

Stump Springs Road is closed to all traffic due to fire suppression activity. Minarets Road (4S81) from Fish Creek to Jackass Rock Organization Campground, Grizzly at Beasore Road to Minarets Road are closed to the public. Residents within the road closure are allowed into the area with valid identification.

Trails:

Per the U.S. Forest Service Closure Order Number 15-13-09, all trails within the Kaiser Wilderness are closed.

## **Closures**

Campground closures within the Sierra National Forest are as follows:

Sample Meadow	West Kaiser
Jackass Rock Organization	Lower Chiquito
Little Jackass	Soda Springs
Placer	Sweet Water
China Bar	Rock Creek
Mammoth Pool	Wagners Mammoth Pool Resort
Fish Creek	

The following campgrounds are closed to house firefighters for suppression efforts:

Midge Creek, Badger Flat and Rancheria.

## **Cooperating agencies include**

The U.S. Forest Service, National Parks Service, U.S. Department of Defense, National Weather Service, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Fresno County Sheriff, Madera County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Southern California Edison, PG&E, California Conservation Corp.

**For more information on this press release or if you have questions regarding the information, please contact the Aspen Fire Information line at (559) 893-7018. Updated information can also be obtained at <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3552/> or by following the Sierra National Forest Twitter Account: @sierra\_nf**